REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

New Claims 11-20 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-10 having been canceled by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to as failing to provide a concise statement of the technical disclosure; the Title of the Invention was objected to as not being descriptive, and the Disclosure was objected to because of informalities; and a substitute specification was required. Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, and under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response to the several grounds for rejection and objection, the original Claims 1-10 have been canceled and replaced by new Claims 11-20 drafted in accordance with U.S. claim drafting practice and defining the subject invention in clear and concise terms. Support for the new claims is discussed below. The title has been amended consistent with the new claims, and the abstract has been rewritten based on new Claim 11. The summary of the invention has been rewritten based on new Claims 11-12. In light of these changes, the several grounds for rejection and objection are believed to have been overcome.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement of a substitute specification because it is believed that the original specification, with perhaps the exception of the original claims, summary and abstract, was drafted in readily understandable idiomatic and grammatically correct English. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this requirement is therefore respectfully requested.

Turning now to a discussion of support for the claimed subject matter recited in

Claims 11-20, the newly submitted Claims 11-14 are repeated with support for each claim

feature noted parenthetically in each claim, as follows:

Claim 11 (New): A data retrieval method comprising:
storing a plurality of information data items in a first memory, each of the information data items including one or more elements, each of the elements having an element name and an element value (page 10, lines 7-16);
estimating a category of the element value of the each of the elements to obtain a label corresponding to the category (page 13, lines 1-21; page 15, lines 21 – page 16, line 11);
storing a plurality of data items in a second memory, each of the data items including the element name of a respective of the elements and the label corresponding to the category of an element value of the respective element (page 17, lines 1-5);
inputting a search request including a keyword and a label (page 21, line 20 – page 22, line 14);
retrieving one of the data items which includes the label included in the search request to obtain the element name included in the one of the data items (page 26, line 17 – page 27, line 1);
retrieving one of the information data items which includes a first element whose element name is equal to the element name included in the one of the data items and a second element whose element value includes the keyword (page 31, line 8 – page 32, line 16); and
outputting the element value of the first element (page 31, line 21 – page 2, line 2).

Claim 12 (New): A data retrieval method comprising:
storing a plurality of information data items in a first memory, each of the information data items including one or more elements, each of the elements having an element name and an element value (page 10, lines 7-16);
estimating a category of the element value of the each of the elements, to obtain a label corresponding to the category (page 13, lines 1-21; page 15, line 21 – page 16, line 11);
storing a plurality of data items in a second memory, each of the data items including the element name of a respective of the elements and the label corresponding to the category of the element value of the respective element (page 17, lines 1-5);
storing a plurality of words and a plurality of labels corresponding to the words, respectively, in a third memory (page 38, line 17 – page 39, line 4);
inputting a search request expressed in natural-language and including a plurality of words (page 38, lines 7-10);
retrieving, from the third memory, one of the labels which corresponds to one of the words included in the search request (page 39, lines 9-26);
extracting another of the words included in the search request as a keyword (page 39, lines 22-26);

retrieving one of the data items which includes the one of the labels to obtain the element name included in the one of the data items (page 40, lines 6-17; page 26, line 17 – page 27, line 1);

retrieving one of the information data items which includes a first element whose element name is equal to the element name included in the one of the data items and a second element whose element value includes the keyword (page 40, lines 6-17; page 31, lines 8-32); and

outputting the element value of the first element (page 40, lines 6-17; page 31, line 21 – page 32, line 2).

Claims 13 (New): A method according to claim 11, wherein estimating includes;

storing a plurality of patterns of the element value and a plurality of labels which correspond to the patterns respectively and correspond to a plurality of categories respectively; and

comparing the element value with the patterns, to obtain the label which corresponds to one of the categories to which the element value belongs (page 13, lines 1-21; page 15, line 21 – page 16, line 11).

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 12, wherein estimating includes:

storing a plurality of patterns of the element value and a plurality of labels which correspond to the patterns respectively and correspond to a plurality of categories respectively; and

comparing the element value with the patterns to obtain the label which corresponds to one of the categories to which the element value belongs (page 13, lines 1-21; page 15, line 21 – page 16, line 11).

For device Claims 15-20, reference is made to the corresponding method claims for support:

Claim 15 corresponds to Claim 11.

Claim 16 corresponds to Claim 12.

Claim 17 corresponds to Claim 13.

Claim 18 corresponds to Claim 14.

Claim 19 corresponds to Claim 11.

Claim 20 corresponds to Claim 12.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be

in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully

requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
  (OSMMN 06/04)

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